**The CollaborativeTeacher Project**

Student Achievement

Student Engagement

And Student Empowerment

…Through Continuous Teacher Improvement

**Looking for Leaders!**

In an effort to support each other in our ongoing professional development, we are proposing the creation of **The Collaborative Teacher Project.** We areseeking committed and dedicated educators to lead our district into a new era. We recognize that there are many teachers in our district that are out there working independently to create their own professional development. If you are one of them, would you be willing to take the commitment you have for continuous professional improvement and serve as a small group facilitator?

**The Collaborative Teacher Project** begins with a premise asserted by Daniel Pink in *DRIVE,* that **we are at our best when we are working together and when we are** **driven by the goals of autonomy, mastery, and purpose**. This plan calls for the development of a small number of collaborative, cross-district teams of teachers who will work together on unique self-chosen projects that promote changed teaching and out-of-the-box thinking for both students and teachers. Consider these teams our school district’s version of “Research and Development.”

Today we are **seeking potential leaders** who have passion, drive, and are **inspired to facilitate a group of fellow educators on a journey toward Student Achievement, Student Engagement, Student Empowerment….through Continuous Teacher Improvement**

These leaders, who will be chosen from a pool of applicants, will be responsible for facilitating a collaborative learning group and will participate in the selection, guidance, and facilitation of team members. **Please know that being a leader does not require you to be an expert…it requires you to be passionate about improving student achievement, student engagement, and student empowerment all through continuous teacher improvement.**

Below you will find some specifics characteristics and expectations for potential Collaborative Learning Project Leaders:

       **Are you a passionate learner and committed to continuous improvement of learning and teaching?** Are you not only driven to go above and beyond but also excited about the prospect of working with and challenging fellow educators to do the same?

      **Are you excited about the prospect of engaging with a group of teachers around a new and innovative idea?** For example, perhaps you are already passionate about Project-Based Learning or the ‘flipped classroom’ model, or perhaps you are simply excited about engaging with and leading a group of educators into uncharted territory.

* **Are you interested in being a leader, and willing to facilitate a team, commit to regular face-to-face meetings, and foster additional online collaboration?** With training, support, guidance, and consistent structures in place, Collaborative Teacher Project Team Leaders would organize regular meetings with their team and foster continuous dialogue and collaboration between meetings via email and other technological applications.

        **Would you be willing to help choose a professional text or resource that can anchor your group’s work and progress?** Once we know the focus/topic of our innovative groups our teams will need a guiding resource to anchor our work. Perhaps you already have one in mind or are simply interested in helping choose such a text.

* **Are you willing to work with and learn new technological tools?** Collaborative Teacher Project Team Leaders will require participants to use technological tools in new and unique ways (and may include student use of tech tools as well).  If you are both interested and willing to learn in this area you could be well on your way to becoming a CTP scout!

If these characteristics and expectations speak to you **complete the questions attached and apply to be a CTP Leader!** If you feel as though the prospect of leading one of these Learning Teams would appeal to your passions and benefit students and teachers in our district we would encourage you to **answer the attached questions and send them to Andy Barrett in the curriculum office by April 19th, 2013**.  After that date, we will begin the process of choosing leaders for this new, exciting opportunity.

If you have any thoughts or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Donna Román, Andy Barrett, Elizabeth Janowiak, or Jerel Waide.  We are excited about partnering with “scouts” here in Geneva to help us explore ways to advance our teaching and student learning.